DECEMBER 1981

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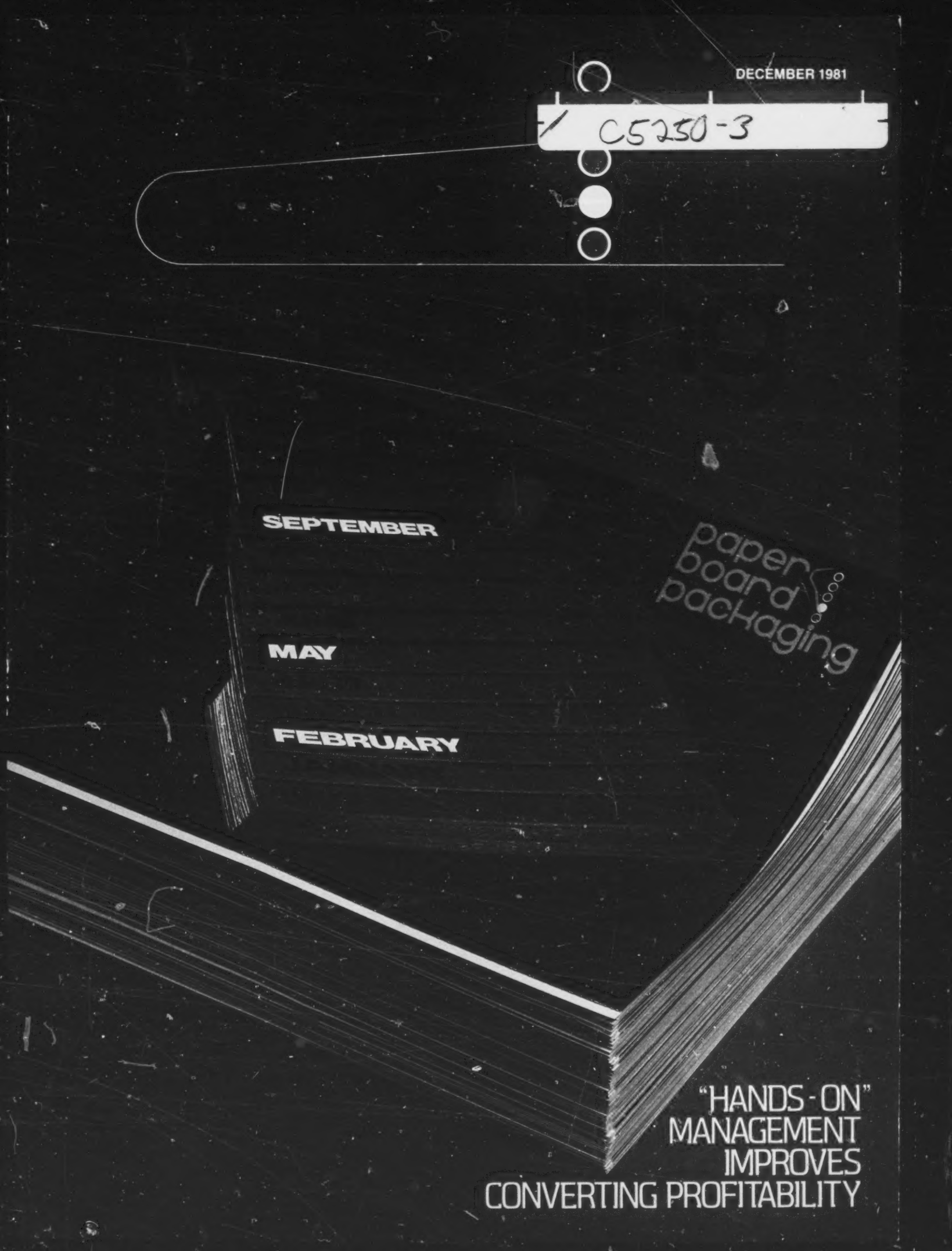

"HANDS-ON" MANAGEMENT IMPROVES CONVERTING PROFITABILITY

vol. 66 no. 12

December 1981

on the cover

Inside this issue you'll find *Paperboard Packaging*'s annual industry calendar. It will provide you with all the dates and locations of next year's major meetings, conferences, seminars, and conventions. It's bound to come in handy throughout 1982. Color photography by Chuck Fishbein.

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1981 by Magazines For Industry, Inc., 747 Third Avenue, New York, New York, 10017 (212) 838-7778. An Equal Opportunity, Employee Owned Company. Published in conjunction with: Official Board Markets, Official Container Directory, International Container Directory.

Subscriptions rates, U.S. and Canada $11.00 per year. All other countries $14.00 per year. Single copies $2.00.

Address all subscription and change of address requests to: Paperboard Packaging, 747 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Printed monthly at Standard Printing Co., Canton, Ohio. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.

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MARCH	Man of the Year Award

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PAPERBOARD PACKAGING (USPS 420020) is published monthly in conjunction with OFFICIAL BOARD MARKETS (weekly), OFFICIAL CONTAINER DIRECTORY (semi-annual), and INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER DIRECTORY (Annual) by Magazines for Industry, Inc., 747 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Don Gussow, chairman and CEO; Marvin Toben, president; Ben Miyares, executive vice president, editorial director; Ted Vilardi, Jr., vice president; Robert M. Stone, secretary; Neil B. Rose, treasurer and controller.

Magazines For Industry, Inc. also publishes: Beverage Industry, Candy & Snack Industry, Candy Marketer, Dairy Field, Food & Drug Packaging, Food Product Development, The Glass Industry, Candy & Snack Industry Update Newsletter & Inside Industry Newsletter; Beverage Industry Annual Manual; Candy & Snack Industry Buying Guide; Candy Marketer Almanac & Buyers Directory; Dairy Industries Catalog; The Glass Industry Directory, and Books For Industry.

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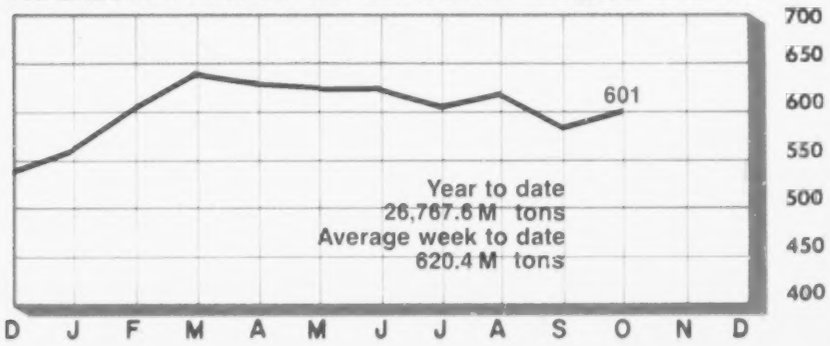
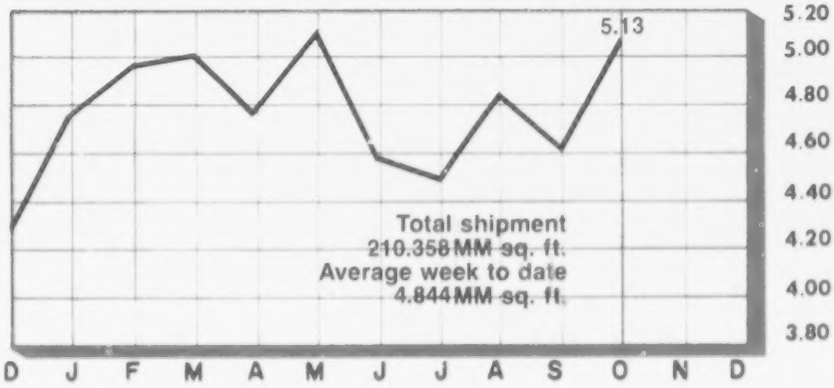
INDUSTRY STATISTICS

PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE 1,000 Tons



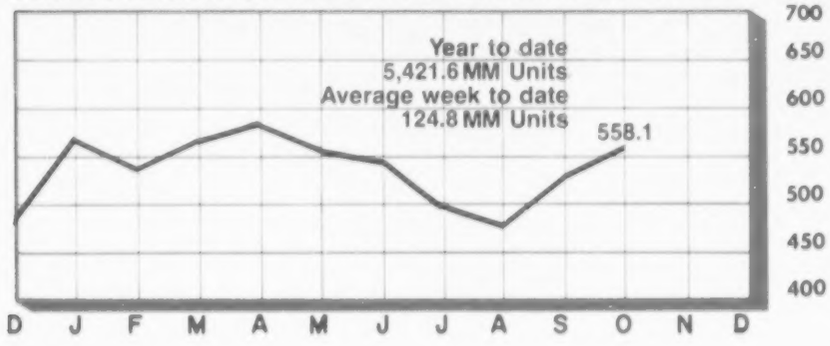
PAPERBOARD MILL OPERATIONS: The first ten months of 1981 ended with total average-week board volume 3.4% up from last year, compared with a 1.2% drop in 1980 from '79, which was 3.5% up from '78. This is the all-time high October-end tonnage. However, output slowed in the eight September/October weeks. Compared with their average week up to September, these reductions are −4.3% total, −3.7% for unbleached kraft, −3.9% for semi-chemical, −5.2% for solid bleached, and −7.6% for recycled furnishes. If this recessive trend continues, 1981 will not reach the all-time production record.

FIBRE BOX SHIPMENTS 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE Billion Sq. Ft.



PAPERBOARD-TYPE PRODUCTION: In October, 2662.1 M tons of board output (down 1% from '80) comprised 1977.7 M of containerboards (down 0.7%) and 684.4M of boxboards (down 1.7%) as projected from American Paper Institute's "production by furnish" data. This decline in the demand for boxboards unfortunately follows a three-month surge, through August, that saw a 6.7% expansion over 1980, including +4.7% for the bleached furnishes and +8% for recycled. And in that period the container/boxboard output again resumed its distorted 3-to-1 ratio of recent years.

COMPOSITE CAN OUTPUT 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE Million Units



RIGID PAPER BOXES: Set-up box billings, at some 10% ahead of the 1980 level, continue to reflect upturn from the more sedate early periods. However, this record, as reported by about 100 major producers, reflects an average of the nation's most remarkable geographic variations. Business for the year ranges from improvements above 20% in some far Eastern sectors to upturns only fractional in Midwest and Pacific Coast areas. Some portion of the advances may be due to higher unit prices, similar to that of the average folding-carton shipped ton—up 60% in a half-dozen years. □

Circle no. 212 for information on Langston ad ➡